MARVEL
PG 30

AUSTEN
HENRY
MORALES

EXILES™ AND THE UNCANNY X-MEN®

UNNATURAL INSTINCTS
PART 3 OF 3

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING
HOME OF THE X-MEN

You *sure* you're all right, Calvin?

I'm *fine*, Heather.

Don't forget, I absorbed some of Wolverine's *healing power* along with his claws.

You're *confident* this is the right way to Morph and the others, Nicholas?

Positive, Nocturne.

I can smell the rest of Morph's body parts just ahead.

You *EXILES* should trust us X-Men a little more.

KWHOOOOOM

Whoa...

What?

How bad *is* he?

What the hell was *that*?

And you wonder why we have *trust issues*...?

Here! Morph's just through here!

Come on!

Oh, Morph...

Oh, YOU'VE got it!

Do you know how LONG I've been looking for that ARM, young man?

ELSEWHERE...

Where are we, Kurt?

I don't know, Annie...probably in the woods somewhere near the X-Mansion.

I teleported away from those Wolves in a panic and I'm not sure to *where*, exactly.

This whole escapade with the Wolves, and these reality-hopping *Exiles*... it's got me all confused, Kurt.

I see some people up there, and...

...are those *buildings*?

Hoooooly cow.

Annie?

We're not in *Kansas* anymore.

NORTH OF XAVIER'S

FZZAAA ASSSHH

FZZAAAASSH

SSCHANG

CHANG

FZZAAAASSH

FWISH

THAK

FZZAAASSH

FZZAAASSH

FZZAAASSH

SHRRIIIP

AAAAAHH!

AAAAHH!
My POWER'S drained!
Oh, reeeeeaally?
NNNGGH!
How unfortunate...
...FOR YOU!
MEANWHILE...
My son Carter may have a *concussion.*
His pupils are dilated and un-responsive--
Are you a *doctor?*
No, I'm a nurse.
But I used to work in an E.R.

God save us from "*experienced* nurses."

He's also a ***mutant,*** isn't he?

I--

He is, yes. But what--

Well...I'll treat him, even though we're not ***supposed*** to. He ***looks*** mostly human.

But you and your ***funny-looking friend*** will have to wait outside...

...and by that I mean outside the ***building.***

I don't want any of our ***normal*** patients disturbed by the sight of ***him.***

NORTH OF XAVIER'S

I never knew you could ***do*** that, Morph.

Break into ***pieces*** and put yourself ***back together,*** I mean.

That makes ***two*** of us, T.J.

You didn't know you could do that?

Well...I know people dismember themselves for fun sometimes...

...you know, just to see if they can wake up and put their bodies back together again...

...but personally, I just never got around to trying it.

Oh, look. There's the X-Men.

And there's "bad" Alex. Looks like the Wolves are going to kill him.

Heeeey, saves us the trouble.

Now, what can we do to kill time?

MORPH!

HEY, LOOK!

Juggernaut?

What does it take to kill you people?

I don't honestly know, scruffy--

--BUT A LOT MORE THAN A COUPLE OVERGROWN DOGS WITH ATTITUDE!

HEE--

YAAAAAHH!

WHUD

AAH!

Damn!

Juggy just *saved* "bad" Alex, and now *Wolverine's* awake and helping out!

But Wolv e doesn't know that "bad" Alex is *bad...* does he?

Doesn't matter--Alex is *powering up!*

LET'S GO, SASQUATCH!

Keep at 'em, Juggs!

I got the other ones tryin' ta get away--

SNIFF SNIFF

Huh?

FZZZ

BACK OFF!

SPANG

Paige?

Paige, it's me **Warren** I'm here, sweet-heart.

Son of a --you stupid son of a

I will --kill you for that!

Then it's **true.** You're not **our** Alex

Not hardly.

FFZZZAAA

SKRAK

Whoa

How the hell did that *sword*--

SHH

CRICKLE

CRIK

deflect

CHLICK

Somebody call for the Iceman?

Nice work, Bobby.

Now step aside!

What?!

Hey, whoa, whoa, whoa there, buddy...

He has to be *taken out*. Otherwise he'll keep trying to kill Nicholas and Carter.

Look, Alex isn't my favorite person, especially *these* days, .but you can't just *"take him out."*

Oh, God.

.. what's *happening?*

I understand some of Bobby's point of view.

...but we've been shown part of the future of this dimension, Bobby.

Nicholas and Carter are supposed to *live*, and for some reason--

BAMF

Dad?

Stop calling me that!

--Alex here won't stop until one or both of them are *dead!*

Wait a minute Sunfire.

You told us that this body still belongs to *our* Alex, and only his *mind* has been replaced

Hey, Warren

Just give me a second, honey, I'm trying to understand

WARREN!

KHROOSH!

Get down!

And now--

--EVERYONE DIES!

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Although why my father would be named "Hallow Ed," I'll never know

TAKE HIM DOWN!

Nocturne, no!

There HAS to be another way!

KRAKOOM

If it's down to him or the kids, elf-

--it's gotta be him.

The only other way is to get "Evil" Alex out of "Good" Alex's body, and there's

--wait a minute, wait a minute--

I've got my *possession* powers

AAAAAHHH!

Juggernaut! FASTBALL SPECIAL!

And I'M the fastball!

I'm startin to *love* this job.

Now *you*, you little ferret! You'll make a *nice rug* for my bathroom--once I *get* one!

LET GO A' ME!

HEY, ALEX!

THINK FAST!

WHU--!

NOOOOOO!

No.
I--
I can't be back here!
Not this empty void again!

I'm afraid you are...and more *solid* than you were the last time.

Solid enough for *The Timebroker* to eliminate-- *personally.*

The Tallus says this mission is complete, guys.

T.J.'s *possession trick* was all we needed to send the evil Alex away.

Then, you're the *real* Alex?

God, yes.

Sooooo...

...if I'm your *father* in your dimension, then who's my *lucky wife?*

Her name's Wanda Maximoff.

She calls herself the *Scarlet Witch.*

Reeeeaally?

She's quite attractive...

So, uh...

...are we okay, Mariko?

Seeing myself *dead* was a shock--

--and I know you didn't mean to hurt me, Morph, but *sometimes--*

I know.

Now and then, I even annoy *myself.*

I love you, Mariko. I would never want to hurt you.

And I love *you,* you silly-putty man.

The Tallus gives us *four days* before we have to move on.

And boy, do we *need* it.

The danger's passed, Paige.

You can change back to your normal form now.

Not in front of *you,* I won't!

T.J. and this dimension's Kurt ***bond*** instantly.

They laugh and kid and talk for ***hours.***

It was good for her to ***connect*** with him--

--someone so like the father she loved and missed so desperately.

Good for them ***both,*** I think.

I can't believe how much I've enjoyed having you around, T.J.

I'm going to ***miss you*** when you're gone, you know.

I know.

I have that effect on people.

You really ***are*** my daughter, aren't you? Little smarty-pants.

I'm going to have to give Wanda a call...

Dude, I'm ***really sorry.***

You need to apologize to ***Alex,*** not me.

I ***DID!*** Like TEN TIMES!

And I don't know what the future holds for ***those*** two boys in this dimension--

--but I know they're in ***good hands.***

All right, guys...

...today's subject--***Anger Management.***

Interestingly, Wolverine avoided ***Mariko*** for the entire four days of our stay.

And Heather avoided ***him.***

Illyana eventually showed up--

--as happy, spirited and loving as you can imagine.

Wanting her ***sword*** back.

Warren, of course, *refused*--

--as much from *spite* as a genuine connection with the sword.

The other X-Men backed him up on that.

It's not like Illyana couldn't get *another* one.

One she asserted--

--quite *loudly* and *publicly*--

--was a far *superior* sword to the previous one.

We left about the same time Alex had completely recovered.

And as we departed--

--we wondered if this was truly the end for him.

If he and the boy were really--

-- finally--

--*safe*.

We felt for him.

But we should have been more concerned about *ourselves*.

END